

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed November 9, 2005, claims 14-16 were examined and the prior obviousness rejections over *Beauchemin* (U.S. Patent No. 5,720,971) or *Toshiyasu* (JP 05192093) maintained. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks which follow.

A. Further Amended Claims 16, 17 and 18 are Patentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,720,971 to *Beauchemin* and the *Toshiyasu* Abstract.

Claims 14, 15 and 16 have been further amended to recite a further limiting preamble, required by the Final Office Action. Accordingly, claim 14 has been amended to recite the required "consisting of":

14. (Currently amended) A method of increasing the total milk production of dairy cows consisting of:
treating feed with a composition consisting of a *Trichoderma viride* cellulase enzyme; and
feeding the treated feed to the dairy cows.

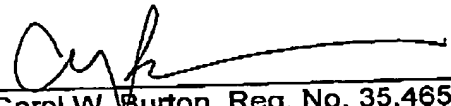
Claims 15 and 16 have amended in an analogous manner. Thus, claims 14, 15 and 16 are patentably distinguishable over *Beauchemin* and *Toshiyasu*, since *Beauchemin*'s preferred compositions are mixtures of cellulase and xylanase, and *Toshiyasu*'s compositions include one or more kinds of essential amino acids. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 14-16 is respectfully requested.

B. Petition for 2-Month Extension.

The applicant hereby petitions for a 2-month extension to extend the due date for response to April 9, 2006. Please charge the extension fee and other fee associated herewith to Deposit Account No. 50-1123. The Examiner is kindly asked to telephone the undersigned should any issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,

April 7, 2006


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